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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/356,327	07/16/99	WONG	C 032151-013

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EXAMINER
ALVAREZ, R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	156

DATE MAILED: 07/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

$\mathcal{S}upplemental$ **Notice of Allowability**	Application No. 09/356,327	Applicant(s) Charles Wong	
	Examiner Raquel Alvarez	Art Unit 2162	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _7/2/2001_.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are _97-108, 114-118, 122, and 123_.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable as formal drawings.

4. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None of the:

    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

  *Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

6. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

7. ☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

    (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _4_ .

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

    (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____ .

  Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

4 ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _14_ .

5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). _____

6 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9 ☐ Other

ERIC W. STAMBER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 97-108, 114-118 and 122-123 are presented for examination.

Examiner's Amendment

2.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312.

To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment

of the issue fee.

Authorization for the following examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with Joseph P. O'Malley, registration number 36,228.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 96 and 124 have been canceled.

In claim 118, line 1 " The apparatus of claim 29" has been changed to-the system of claim

117-.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   Claims 97-108, 114-118 and 122-123 are allowed.

The present invention comprises a web business to business automation system that uses a

computing model based on a single integrated database management system. It allows integration

of the business to be streamlined. Vendor invoices and payments are handled using the database

management system and both the customers and vendors can view status-invoices, credit(from

returns) via the web.

The Examiner asserts that the closest prior art were: Junger(6,085,172),

Sellers(5,311,438), Sitarski(5,237,497) and publication titled, "Business to Business on the

Internet: Using the web to cut costs and build sales"(hereinafter Business to Business on the

Internet" and Coverdale et al.(EP 996273 A1).

With respect to claim 97, Junger disclosed a method of processing customer service

request relating to a product(abstract). including an automated workflow process for customer

service requests, including returns, that uses a database and a web-enabled database management

system(figures 2 and 3); a customer making a purchase form the merchant(i.e. the returns are on

purchases that a customer makes to a merchant)(prior art figure 1, items 3A-3B) and via the web

in a self-help manner, causing a customer-service/return record to be created in a database to be

processed by the merchant. Junger failed to disclosed the specific limitations of claim 97 which

recites **"an automated workflow process for customer service requests, including returns,**

that uses a database and a web-enabled database management system, the customer via the

web in a self-help manner causes a customer service return record to be created in a

database, wherein the customer-service return record is created related ro a pre-existing

database record and wherein for at least some customer-service/return record, an

automated workflow process reverses a previously executed workflow process"

With respect to independent claims 100, 107, 114, 116, 117, 122 ánd 124, Seller disclosed

a business-to-business commerce(i.e. the user represents a plant(business) which has a formal

agreement with a vendor to provide specified quantity of material at agreed-upon prices) therefore

a business to business process is taking place from a plant to a vendor(col. 70, lines 30-37).

Sistarki disclosed storing within a database, in accordance with a single database schema, all current records required to perform a full spectrum of business functions throughout a life cycle of each product item(col. 5, lines 59- col. 6, lines 1-17); and limiting a number of persons for which current records are stored within the database(col. 5, lines 33-40).

Business to Business on the Internet disclosed a method of establishing an end-to-end business-to-business commerce system for the sale, or sale and service, of product items, using a web-enabled relational database management system running on a server platform(entire document). Enabling a full spectrum of business functions to be performed remotely via the web(i.e. the company posts its products on electronic catalogs and provides online ordering and customer support via the net. It also sells Internet products and services which can be delivered via the net, such as software for intrusion detection and firewalls)(page 1, paragraph 4).

Coverdale et al. disclosed receiving a threshold value. Calculating a rating factor responsive to the quality of service for the Internet protocol network.

The references neither alone or in combination failed to teach the limitations of claims 100-105, which recite" **a web-based business-to-business electronic commerce system including a database and a web server wherein transaction information is organized into self-contained workflow units having a predetermined format and each including demand information for a particular party, the predetermined format defining a command demand**

document enabling demand information to be capsuled for a range of differentiated

business transaction of different complexity".

The references neither alone or in combination failed to teach the limitations of claims

107-108, which recite " applying an algorithm whereby items are classified, marked and

displayed according to classification for performing a particular business functions".

The references neither alone or in combination failed to teach the limitations of claims

114-115, which recite "establishing an end-to-end business commerce in which product

items are sold, using a web-enabled relational database management system running on a

server platform by providing within a single database automated system data and methods

spanning multiple business functions, the data being stored in accordance with a single

database schema; providing a user interface that allows open navigation by a user between

information pertaining to different business domains, and, for each of multiple business

functions, displaying within an integrated decision making environment complete

information required to perform that business function; and dynamically defining multiple

virtual business departments by, for each of multiple groups of people, assigning

substantially similar access privileges to each person within the group, wherein the access

privileges of different groups are substantially different".

The references neither alone or in combination failed to teach the limitations of claim 116,

which recite, " identifying multiple modules of the software; and via web administration,

producing a software configuration in which selected ones of the modules are enabled or

disabled; wherein the software producing a workscope/workflow are structured display pf

complex database records each comprising multiple lines of text and pertaining to both a

first party to a business transaction and a second party to the business transaction, the

structured display constituting an integrated decision-making environment for a particular

business function".

The references neither alone or in combination failed to teach the limitations of claims

117-118, which recite, " a server platform running a web-enabled relational database

management system; stored in the database, an item table comprising item records, each

item record containing business domain-specific fields pertaining to a plurality of the

following business domains: products, payments, performance and personnel; whereby,

once item information has been input and committed, it is immediately available for

viewing by a multiplicity of information workers, different information workers having

responsibility for different ones of said domains".

The references neither alone or in combination failed to teach the limitations of claims

122-123, which recite " integrating within a single database business information spanning

multiple business domains and formalizing a decision making -algorithm that uses

information spanning multiple business domains which presents to the user results of the

decision-making algorithm in response to a user action".

The references neither alone or in combination failed on teach the limitations of claim 124.

which recite," interaction flows between business function enabled by the database which

contains business rules for dealing with different business partners, the business rules including rules governing more than one of the business function affecting the sequentially interacting flows".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

A.   Westrope et al.(5,968,110) disclosed a catalog ordering system that would initiate the order entry, customer service, product information request or product return subroutines;

B.   De Lapa et al. (5,353,218) disclosed a system for ordering and storing coupons information;

C.   Clemmons (EP 996273 A1) disclosed a system that provides differentiate treatments to customer based on how profitable their accounts are.

Points Of Contact

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (703) 305-0456. The examiner

can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Eric W. Stamber, can be reached on (703) 305-8469. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-0040.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Raquel Alvarez
Patent Examiner, AU 2162
July 2, 2001